This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1   1. (currently amended) A voice portal hosting system,
2 intended to be connected to a first voice telecommunication
3 network in order for a plurality of users in said network to
4 establish a connection with said system using voice equipment in
5 support of the ordering of products and/or services from any of
6 a plurality of independent value-added service providers, said
7 system comprising:
8   a memory in which a plurality of interactive voice response
9   applications providing interactive voice response
10   functionality is stored, each of said applications
11   including an executable component for execution by
12   said hosting system;
13   a common speech recognition module;
14   means for storing a plurality of user-specific speech
15   models adapted to specific users for use by the common
16   speech recognition module;
17   a user identification module for identifying a user;
18   means for retrieving the user-specific speech model of the
19   identified user from said plurality of models;
20   and
21   uploading means for independently uploading said plurality
22   of interactive voice response applications, to said
23   system[[,]] in advance of any ordering of said
24   products and/or services, by [[a]] said plurality of
25   independent value-added service providers, wherein
26   the identified user interacts with one or more of said
27   interactive voice response applications, and wherein

28   said one or more interactive voice response applications
29   utilize said retrieved user-specific speech model via
30   said common speech recognition module for recognizing
31   speech of the identified user, wherein each of said
32   interactive voice response applications includes an
33   executable component for execution by said hosting
34   system, ~~said executable component comprising at least~~
35   ~~one of an executable file, a Java Bean, a Corba-~~
36   ~~component, a compiled software module, and a pre-~~
37   ~~compiled software module~~ <u>and wherein</u>
38   <u>said user-specific speech model is further adapted to the</u>
39   <u>specific user during said ordering of said product</u>
40   <u>and/or services from any one of said service providers</u>
41   <u>such that said further adapted model is then utilized</u>
42   <u>for future ordering of products and/or services from</u>
43   <u>any other of said service providers</u>.

1   2. (original) The voice portal hosting system of claim 1,
2 wherein said common speech recognition module comprises a common
3 user profile database.

1   3. (original) The voice portal hosting system of claim 2,
2 wherein said common user profile database includes user
3 preferences.

1   4. (original) The voice portal hosting system of claim 3,
2 wherein said user preferences include a delivery address for
3 goods and/or services ordered with said value-added service
4 providers.

1   5. (original) The voice portal hosting system of claim 3,
2 wherein said user preferences include a billing address and/or

3 preferences for goods and services ordered with said value-added
4 service providers.

1   6. (canceled).

1   7. (original) The voice portal hosting system of claim 6,
2 comprising means for adapting said common speech models
3 associated to a user during each dialogue between said user and
4 each of said interactive voice response applications.

1   8. (original) The voice portal hosting system of claim 7,
2 wherein said means for adapting said common speech models uses
3 recorded users' speech samples for adapting said common speech
4 models off-line.

1   9. (original) The voice portal hosting system of claim 1,
2 wherein said common speech recognition module uses Hidden Markov
3 Models, and further comprising a Hidden Markov Models adaptation
4 module for adapting said models to said user.

1   10. (original) The voice portal hosting system of claim 9,
2 wherein said Hidden Markov Models adaptation module allows for
3 an incremental adaptation of said models.

1   11. (original) The voice portal hosting system of claim 1,
2 wherein said common speech recognition module uses user-specific
3 language models.

1   12. (original) The voice portal hosting system of claim 11,
2 comprising means for adapting said common language models
3 associated to a user during each dialogue between said user and
4 each of said interactive voice response applications.

1   13. (original) The voice portal hosting system of claim 1,
2 wherein said common speech recognition module uses selections
3 previously made by said users.

1   14. (previously presented) The voice portal hosting system
2 of claim 13, wherein said selections previously made by said
3 users are stored in said voice portal hosting system for
4 improving the arborescence of the menus.

1   15. (original) The voice portal hosting system of claim 1,
2 wherein at least a plurality of said interactive voice response
3 applications use a common user identification module run on said
4 system.

1   16. (original) The voice portal hosting system of claim 15,
2 wherein said user identification module uses an identification
3 of the equipment used by said user in said first
4 telecommunication network.

1   17. (original) The voice portal hosting system of claim 16,
2 being operated by a telecom operator of said first
3 telecommunication network, wherein said user identification
4 module uses an identification of the equipment used by said user
5 in said first telecommunication network even when said
6 identification is not available for the other B-subscribers of
7 said first telecommunication network.

1   18. (original) The voice portal hosting system of claim 15,
2 wherein said user identification module uses a voice-based user
3 identification module.

1   19. (original) The voice portal hosting system of claim 15,
2   wherein said common speech recognition module uses a speaker-
3   dependant speech recognition algorithm, wherein said speaker is
4   identified by said common user identification module.

1   20. (original) The voice portal hosting system of claim 1,
2   wherein at least a plurality of said interactive voice response
3   applications use a common billing module and a common clearing
4   center for dispatching the collected amounts to said value-added
5   service providers.

1   21. (original) The voice portal hosting system of claim 20,
2   wherein said common billing module allows for the billing of
3   transactions between said users and said value-added service
4   providers on a common bill prepared by the operator of said
5   voice portal hosting system.

1   22. (original) The voice portal hosting system of claim 20,
2   wherein at least a plurality of said users have a deposit
3   account on said voice portal hosting system which can be used
4   for transactions with a plurality of said value-added service
5   providers.

1   23. (original) The voice portal hosting system of claim 1,
2   wherein at least a plurality of said interactive voice response
3   applications use a user authentication module based on an
4   electronic signature and/or on biometric parameters of said
5   users.

24. (original) The voice portal hosting system of claim 1, wherein said second telecommunication network is a TCP/IP network.

Claim 25 (canceled).

26. (original) The voice portal hosting system of claim 25, wherein a compilation module run on said system compiles said interactive voice response applications.

27. (original) The voice portal hosting system of claim 1, wherein at least one free interactive voice response application is made available by the operator of said system.

28. (original) The voice portal hosting system of claim 27, wherein said free interactive voice response application includes a free directory assistance service.

29. (canceled).

30. (currently amended) A method for allowing each of a plurality of value-added service providers to set up an interactive voice response application including an executable component for execution by a voice portal hosting system commonly used by said plurality of value-added service providers, said voice response application for being used by a plurality of users for ordering products and/or services from said service providers, said method comprising the steps of:
  storing a plurality of user-specific speech models adapted
      to specific users for use by a common speech
      recognition module;

12   identifying a user calling said system;

13   retrieving the user-specific speech model of the identified

14   user from said plurality of models;

15   independently uploading, to said system, said interactive

16   voice response applications which provide interactive

17   voice response functionality in advance of any

18   ordering of said products and/or services;

19   the identified user interacting with one or more of said

20   interactive voice response applications; and

21   said one or more of said interactive voice response

22   applications using said retrieved user-specific speech

23   model via said common speech recognition module for

24   executing on said hosting system for recognizing

25   speech of the identified user for ordering said

26   products and/or services from one of said service

27   providers such that said user-specific speech model is

28   further adapted during said ordering such that said

29   further adapted model is then utilized for future

30   ordering of products and/or services from another of

31   said service providers, ~~wherein said interactive voice~~

32   ~~response applications include an executable component~~

33   ~~for execution by said hosting system, said executable~~

34   ~~component comprising at least one of an executable~~

35   ~~file, a Java Bean, a Corba-component, a compiled~~

36   ~~software module, and a pre-compiled software module~~.

1   31. (original) The method of claim 30, wherein said

2 interactive voice response applications use a common user

3 profile database stored in said voice portal hosting system.

1   32. (original) The method of claim 31, wherein said

2 interactive voice response applications use user preferences

3 stored in said common user profile database.

1   33. (original) The method of claim 32, wherein said user
2 preferences include a delivery address for goods and/or services
3 ordered with said value-added service providers.

1   34. (original) The method of claim 33, wherein said user
2 preferences include a billing address and/or preferences for
3 goods and/or services ordered with said value-added service
4 providers.

1   35. (original) The method of claim 34, wherein said common
2 speech recognition module uses common users' speech models.

1   36. (original) The method of claim 35, wherein said common
2 speech models associated to a user are adapted during each
3 dialogue between said users and each of said interactive voice
4 response applications.

1   37. (original) The method of claim 30, wherein said common
2 speech recognition module uses common users' language models.

1   38. (original) The method of claim 37, wherein said common
2 language models associated to a user are adapted during each
3 dialogue between said user and each of said interactive voice
4 response applications.

1   39. (original) The method of claim 30, wherein at least a
2 plurality of said interactive voice response applications uses a
3 common user identification module run on said system.

1   40. (original) The method of claim 39, wherein said user
2   identification module uses an identification of the equipment
3   used by said user in said first telecommunication network.

1   41. (original) The method of claim 40, wherein said voice
2   portal hosting system is operated by a telecom operator of said
3   first telecommunication network, wherein said user
4   identification module uses an identification of the equipment
5   used by said user in said first telecommunication network even
6   when said identification is not available for the other B-
7   subscribers of said first telecommunication network.

1   42. (original) The method of claim 39, wherein said user
2   identification module uses a voice-based speaker identification
3   module.

1   43. (original) The method of claim 39, wherein said common
2   speech recognition module uses a speaker-dependant speech
3   recognition algorithm, said user being identified by said common
4   user identification module.

1   44. (original) The method of claim 30, wherein at least a
2   plurality of said interactive voice response applications use a
3   common billing module and a common clearing center for
4   dispatching the collected amounts to said value-added service
5   providers.

1   45. (original) The method of claim 44, wherein said common
2   billing module allows for the billing of transactions between
3   said users and said value-added service providers on a common
4   bill prepared by the operator of said voice portal hosting

5   system.

1   46. (original) The method of claim 44, wherein at least a
2   plurality of said users have a deposit account on said system
3   which can be used for transactions with a plurality of said
4   value-added service providers.

1   47. (original) The method of claim 30, wherein at least a
2   plurality of said interactive voice response applications use a
3   user authentication module based on an electronic signature
4   and/or on biometric parameters of said users.

1   48. (original) The method of claim 30, wherein at least
2   some of said interactive voice response applications are
3   described with Voice extensible Markup Language documents.

1   49. (original) The method of claim 48, wherein a
2   compilation module run on said voice portal hosting system
3   compiles said interactive voice response applications.

1   50. (currently amended) A method for allowing each of a
2   plurality of independent value-added service providers to set up
3   ~~an~~ interactive voice response applications each including an
4   executable component for execution by a voice portal hosting
5   system commonly used by said plurality of value-added service
6   providers and which can be used by a plurality of users <u>for</u>
7   <u>ordering products and/or services from said providers</u>, said
8   method comprising the steps of:
9   independently uploading, through a second telecommunication
10   network, said interactive voice response applications
11   to said system for providing interactive voice

12   response functionality, said uploading done in advance

13   of any ordering of said products and/or services,

14   storing a plurality of user-specific speech models adapted

15   to specific users for use by a common speech

16   recognition module,

17   identifying a user calling said system,

18   retrieving the user-specific speech model of the identified

19   user from said plurality of models,

20   and

21   executing one or more of said voice response applications

22   in response to the user calling said system, said

23   executing including interacting with said user via

24   said common speech module using said retrieved user-

25   specific speech model for recognizing the speech of

26   the user for ordering the products and/or services

27   from one of said service providers, wherein

28   said interactive voice response applications include an

29   executable component for execution by said hosting

30   system, ~~said executable component comprising at least~~

31   ~~one of an executable file, a Java Bean, a Corba-~~

32   ~~component, a compiled software module, and a pre-~~

33   ~~compiled software module,~~ and wherein

34   said common speech models are adapted during each dialogue

35   between said user[[s]] calling the system and any of

36   said interactive voice response applications of said

37   one of said service providers during said ordering,

38   such that said adapted speech models can be utilized

39   by the other interactive voice response applications

40   for the user ordering products and/or services from

41   the other service providers.

1   51. (canceled).

1   52. (currently amended) A voice portal hosting system
2 allowing a plurality of users to establish a connection with
3 said system using voice equipment for interacting with one or
4 more of a plurality of service providers for ordering a product
5 and/or service, said system comprising:
6   means for independently uploading a plurality of
7   interactive voice response applications from said
8   service provides, to said system, via a communication
9   channel in advance of ordering products or services
10   using the system, each of said voice response
11   applications for providing interactive voice response
12   functionality for a corresponding one of said service
13   providers when executed by said hosting system,
14   wherein said interactive voice response applications
15   include an executable component for execution by said
16   hosting system, said executable component comprising
17   at least one of an executable file, a Java Bean, a
18   Corba-component, a compiled software module, and a
19   pre-compiled software module;
20   means for storing said plurality of interactive voice
21   response applications;
22   a common speech recognition module;
23   means for storing a plurality of user-specific speech
24   models adapted to specific users for use by the common
25   speech recognition module;
26   a user identification module for identifying a user calling
27   said system via another communication channel;
28   means for retrieving the user-specific speech model of the
29   identified user from said plurality of models, wherein
30   the identified user interacts with one or more of said
31   interactive voice response applications, and wherein

32   said one or more interactive voice response applications

33   utilize said retrieved user-specific speech model via

34   said common speech recognition module for recognizing

35   speech of the identified user, and further wherein

36   said common speech models are adaptable during dialogue

37   between said users and any of said interactive voice

38   response applications <u>during ordering of products</u>

39   <u>and/or services from the corresponding providers such</u>

40   <u>that said adapted speech models are thereafter</u>

41   <u>utilized by others of said voice response applications</u>

42   <u>for ordering products and/or services of the</u>

43   <u>corresponding other providers</u>.

1   53. (currently amended) A voice portal hosting system,

2 intended to be connected to a first voice telecommunication

3 network in order for a plurality of users in said network to

4 establish a connection with said system using voice equipment

5 <u>for ordering products and/or services from one of a plurality of</u>

6 <u>providers</u>, said system comprising:

7   a memory in which a plurality of interactive voice response

8   applications providing interactive voice response

9   functionality is stored, each of said applications

10   including an executable component for execution by

11   said hosting system;

12   a common speech recognition module;

13   means for storing a plurality of user-specific speech

14   models adapted to specific users for use by the common

15   speech recognition module;

16   a user identification module for identifying a known user

17   or a new user;

18   means for retrieving the user-specific speech model of the

19   known user from said plurality of models;

20   means for updating said user-specific speech models to the
21   new user without using any training phase;
22   and
23   uploading means for independently uploading said plurality
24   of interactive voice response applications, to said
25   system, by a plurality of independent value-added
26   service providers, wherein
27   the identified user interacts with one or more of said
28   interactive voice response applications, and wherein
29   said one or more interactive voice response applications
30   utilize said retrieved user-specific speech model via
31   said common speech recognition module for recognizing
32   speech of the known user ordering a product and/or
33   service from one of said providers, and for further
34   adapting said user-specific speech model during said
35   ordering such that said adapted user-specific speech
36   model can thereafter be utilized for ordering a
37   product and/or service from another of said providers,
38   and wherein
39   speaker independent models are used for a new user prior to
40   updating said user-specific speech models to make the
41   new user into a known user.

1   54. (previously presented) The system of claim 53, wherein
2   each of said interactive voice response applications includes an
3   executable component for execution by said hosting system, said
4   executable component comprising at least one of an executable
5   file, a Java Bean, a Corba-component, a compiled software
6   module, and a pre-compiled software module.

1   55. (currently amended) A method for allowing each of a
2   plurality of value-added service providers to set up an

interactive voice response application including an executable
component for execution by a voice portal hosting system
commonly used by said plurality of value-added service
providers, said voice response application for being used by a
plurality of users for ordering products and/or services from
said providers, said method comprising the steps of:
    storing a plurality of user-specific speech models adapted
        to known users for use by a common speech recognition
        module;
    identifying a user calling said system as a known user or a
        new user;
    retrieving the user-specific speech model of the known user
        from said plurality of models or else retrieving a
        speaker independent model for the new user and
        generating a user-specific speech model for the new
        user without using any training phase;
    independently uploading, to said system, said interactive
        voice response applications which provide interactive
        voice response functionality;
    the identified user interacting with one ~~or more~~ of said
        interactive voice response applications; and
    said one ~~or more~~ of said interactive voice response
        applications using said retrieved user-specific speech
        model or said retrieved speaker independent speech
        model via said common speech recognition module for
        executing on said hosting system for recognizing
        speech of the known user or the new user, respectively
        for ordering a product or service from one of said
        providers, such that a user-specific speech model for
        the new user is created or the retrieved user-specific
        speech model of the known user is further adapted
        during said ordering such that said user-specific

35   speech model is thereafter made available for the new
36   or known user to interact with another of said
37   interactive voice applications for ordering a service
38   or product from another of said providers.

1   56. (previously presented) The system of claim 53, wherein
2 each of said interactive voice response applications includes an
3 executable component for execution by said hosting system, said
4 executable component comprising at least one of an executable
5 file, a Java Bean, a Corba-component, a compiled software
6 module, and a pre-compiled software module.

1   57. (currently amended) A method for allowing each of a
2 plurality of independent value-added service providers to set up
3 a[[n]] corresponding interactive voice response application[[s]]
4 ~~each~~ including an executable component for execution by a voice
5 portal hosting system commonly used by said plurality of value-
6 added service providers and which can be used by a plurality of
7 users, said method comprising the steps of:
8   ~~independently uploading, through a second telecommunication~~
9   ~~network,~~ storing said interactive voice response
10   applications ~~to~~ from said providers on said system for
11   providing interactive voice response functionality,
12   storing a plurality of user-specific speech models adapted
13   to known users for use by a common speech recognition
14   module,
15   identifying a user calling said system as a known user or
16   new user,
17   retrieving the user-specific speech model of the known user
18   from said plurality of models or retrieving a speaker
19   independent model for a new user and adapting a user
20   specific speech model for the new user,

21	and
22	executing one ~~or more~~ of said voice response applications
23	<u>associated with one of said providers</u> in response to
24	the user calling said system, said executing including
25	interacting with the user via said common speech
26	module using said retrieved user-specific speech model
27	for recognizing the speech of the known user or using
28	said retrieved speaker independent model for the new
29	user, wherein
30	said common speech models are adapted during each dialogue
31	between said users and any of said interactive voice
32	response applications without using any training phase
33	<u>and wherein</u>
34	<u>the user-specific speech model for the user is further</u>
35	<u>adapted during said interacting such that said user-</u>
36	<u>specific speech model is thereafter made available for</u>
37	<u>interacting with any other of said voice response</u>
38	<u>applications associated with another of said</u>
39	<u>providers</u>.

1	58. (previously presented) The method of claim 57, wherein
2	said interactive voice response applications include an
3	executable component for execution by said hosting system, said
4	executable component comprising at least one of an executable
5	file, a Java Bean, a Corba-component, a compiled software
6	module, and a pre-compiled software module.

1	59. (previously presented) A system for implementing the
2	method of claim 57.

1	60. (currently amended) A method for allowing each of a
2	plurality of independent value-added service providers to set up

3   a[[n]] <u>corresponding</u> interactive voice response application[[s]]
4   ~~each~~ including an executable component for execution by a voice
5   portal hosting system commonly used by said plurality of value-
6   added service providers and which can be used by a plurality of
7   users, said method comprising the steps of:
8   independently uploading, through a second telecommunication
9   network, said interactive voice response applications
10   to said system for providing interactive voice
11   response functionality, wherein said interactive voice
12   response applications include an executable component
13   for execution by said hosting system,
14   storing a plurality of user-specific speech models adapted
15   to known users for use by a common speech recognition
16   module,
17   identifying a user calling said system as a known user or
18   new user,
19   retrieving the user-specific speech model of the known user
20   from said plurality of models or retrieving a speaker
21   independent model for a new user and adapting a user
22   specific speech model for the new user,
23   executing one or more of said voice response applications
24   in response to the user calling said system, said
25   executing including interacting with the user via said
26   common speech module using said retrieved user-
27   specific speech model for recognizing the speech of
28   the known user or using said retrieved speaker
29   independent model for the new user, wherein
30   said common speech models are incrementally adapted during
31   each dialogue between said users and any of said
32   interactive voice response applications using
33   recording speech samples and without using any
34   training phase<u> such that said adapted models are</u>

35	thereafter made available for use by all of said
36	interactive voice response applications of the
37	providers, and wherein
38	said common speech recognition module comprises a common
39	user profile database including user preferences.

61. (currently amended) A voice portal hosting system,
intended to be connected to a first voice telecommunication
network in order for a plurality of users in said network to
establish a connection with said system using voice equipment,
said system comprising:

    a memory in which a plurality of interactive voice response
        applications providing interactive voice response
        functionality is stored, each of said applications
        including an executable component for execution by
        said hosting system;

    a common speech recognition module;

    means for storing a plurality of user-specific speech and
        language models adapted to specific users for use by
        the common speech recognition module;

    a user identification module for identifying a user;

    means for retrieving the user-specific speech and language
        model of the identified user from said plurality of
        models;

    and

    uploading means for independently uploading said plurality
        of interactive voice response applications in advance,
        to said system, by a plurality of independent value-
        added service providers, wherein

    the identified user interacts with one ~~or more~~ of said
        interactive voice response applications for ordering a
        product or service from the provider corresponding to

27   the one of said interactive voice response

28   applications, and wherein

29   said one ~~or more~~ of said interactive voice response

30   applications utilizes said retrieved user-specific

31   speech and language model via said common speech

32   recognition module for recognizing speech of the

33   identified user during said ordering, and wherein

34   ~~wherein each of said interactive voice response~~

35   ~~applications includes an executable component for~~

36   ~~execution by said hosting system~~

37   said retrieved user-specific speech model is further

38   adapted to the specific user during said ordering from

39   said corresponding service provider such that said

40   further adapted retrieved user-specific speech model

41   is thereafter utilized by any other of said

42   interactive voice response applications for future

43   ordering of products and/or services from the other

44   corresponding service providers.

1   62. (currently amended) A method for allowing each of a

2   plurality of value-added service providers to set up an

3   interactive voice response application including an executable

4   component for execution by a voice portal hosting system

5   commonly used by said plurality of value-added service providers

6   for selling products and/or services, said voice response

7   application for being used by a plurality of users to order said

8   products and services, said method comprising the steps of:

9   storing a plurality of user-specific speech and language

10   models adapted to specific users for use by a common

11   speech recognition module;

12   identifying a user calling said system;

13   retrieving the user-specific speech and language model of
14   the identified user from said plurality of models;
15   independently uploading, to said system, said interactive
16   voice response applications which provide interactive
17   voice response functionality;
18   the identified user interacting with one ~~or more~~ of said
19   interactive voice response applications; and
20   said one ~~or more~~ of said interactive voice response
21   applications using said retrieved user-specific speech
22   and language model via said common speech recognition
23   module for executing on said hosting system for
24   recognizing speech of the identified user <u>for ordering</u>
25   <u>products and/or services from the provider</u>
26   <u>corresponding to said one of said interactive voice</u>
27   <u>response applications, and wherein</u>, ~~wherein said~~
28   ~~interactive voice response applications include an~~
29   ~~executable component for execution by said hosting~~
30   ~~system~~
31   <u>said retrieved user-specific speech model is further</u>
32   <u>adapted to the identified user during said ordering</u>
33   <u>such that said further adapted retrieved user-specific</u>
34   <u>speech model is thereafter utilized for ordering of</u>
35   <u>products and/or services from any others of said</u>
36   <u>service providers using their corresponding</u>
37   <u>interactive voice response application(s).</u>

1   63. (currently amended) A method for allowing each of a
2   plurality of value-added service providers to set up an
3   interactive voice response application including an executable
4   component for execution by a voice portal hosting system
5   commonly used by said plurality of value-added service
6   providers, said voice response application for being used by a

7   plurality of users, comprising the steps of:

8   storing a plurality of user-specific speech models adapted

9   to specific users for use by a common speech

10   recognition module;

11   identifying user equipment being used by a user calling

12   said system;

13   identifying the user using the user equipment;

14   retrieving the user-specific speech model of the identified

15   user from said plurality of models;

16   independently uploading, to said system, said interactive

17   voice response applications which provide interactive

18   voice response functionality;

19   the identified user interacting with one ~~or more~~ of said

20   interactive voice response applications; and

21   said one ~~or more~~ of said interactive voice response

22   applications of one of said providers using said

23   retrieved user-specific speech model via said common

24   speech recognition module for executing on said

25   hosting system for recognizing speech of the

26   identified user and for updating said retrieved user-

27   specific speech model, wherein said interactive voice

28   response applications include an executable component

29   for execution by said hosting system, and wherein

30   said further adapted retrieved user-specific speech model

31   is made available for use by others of said

32   interactive voice response applications of the other

33   providers.

1   64. (currently amended) A voice portal hosting system,

2   intended to be connected to a first voice telecommunication

3   network in order for a plurality of users in said network to

4   establish a connection with said system using voice equipment,

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 5   said system comprising:
 6        a memory in which a plurality of interactive voice response
 7              applications providing interactive voice response
 8              functionality is stored, each of said applications
 9              including an executable component for execution by
10              said hosting system;
11        a common speech recognition module;
12        means for storing a plurality of user-specific speech
13              models adapted to specific users for use by the common
14              speech recognition module;
15        a user identification module for identifying a user;
16        means for retrieving the user-specific speech model of the
17              identified user from said plurality of models;
18        and
19        uploading means for independently uploading said plurality
20              of interactive voice response applications, to said
21              system, by a plurality of independent value-added
22              service providers, wherein
23        the identified user interacts with one o̶r̶ ̶m̶o̶r̶e̶ of said
24              interactive voice response applications o̲f̲ ̲a̲
25              c̲o̲r̲r̲e̲s̲p̲o̲n̲d̲ ̲o̲n̲e̲ ̲o̲f̲ ̲s̲a̲i̲d̲ ̲p̲r̲o̲v̲i̲d̲e̲r̲s̲, and wherein
26        said one o̶r̶ ̶m̶o̶r̶e̶ o̲f̲ ̲s̲a̲i̲d̲ interactive voice response
27              applications utilize said retrieved user-specific
28              speech model via said common speech recognition module
29              for recognizing speech of the identified user, wherein
30              s̲a̲i̲d̲ ̲r̲e̲t̲r̲i̲v̲e̲d̲ ̲u̲s̲e̲r̲-̲s̲p̲e̲c̲i̲f̲i̲c̲ ̲s̲p̲e̲e̲c̲h̲ ̲m̲o̲d̲e̲l̲ ̲i̲s̲ ̲f̲u̲r̲t̲h̲e̲r̲
31              a̲d̲a̲p̲a̲t̲e̲d̲ ̲d̲u̲r̲i̲n̲g̲ ̲s̲a̲i̲d̲ ̲i̲n̲t̲e̲r̲a̲c̲t̲i̲n̲g̲ ̲a̲n̲d̲ ̲i̲s̲ ̲t̲h̲e̲r̲e̲a̲f̲t̲e̲r̲
32              m̲a̲d̲e̲ ̲a̲v̲a̲i̲l̲a̲b̲l̲e̲ ̲f̲o̲r̲ ̲u̲s̲e̲ ̲b̲y̲ ̲o̲t̲h̲e̲r̲s̲ ̲o̲f̲ ̲s̲a̲i̲d̲ ̲i̲n̲t̲e̲r̲a̲c̲t̲i̲v̲e̲
33              v̲o̲i̲c̲e̲ ̲r̲e̲s̲p̲o̲n̲s̲e̲ ̲a̲p̲p̲l̲i̲c̲a̲t̲i̲o̲n̲s̲ ̲o̲f̲ ̲o̲t̲h̲e̲r̲s̲ ̲o̲f̲ ̲s̲a̲i̲d̲
34              p̲r̲o̲v̲i̲d̲e̲r̲s̲, e̶a̶c̶h̶ ̶o̶f̶ ̶s̶a̶i̶d̶ ̶i̶n̶t̶e̶r̶a̶c̶t̶i̶v̶e̶ ̶v̶o̶i̶c̶e̶ ̶r̶e̶s̶p̶o̶n̶s̶e̶
35              a̶p̶p̶l̶i̶c̶a̶t̶i̶o̶n̶s̶ ̶i̶n̶c̶l̶u̶d̶e̶s̶ ̶a̶n̶ ̶e̶x̶e̶c̶u̶t̶a̶b̶l̶e̶ ̶c̶o̶m̶p̶o̶n̶e̶n̶t̶ ̶f̶o̶r̶
36              e̶x̶e̶c̶u̶t̶i̶o̶n̶ ̶b̶y̶ ̶s̶a̶i̶d̶ ̶h̶o̶s̶t̶i̶n̶g̶ ̶s̶y̶s̶t̶e̶m̶,̶ and wherein
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37   said common speech recognition module, said user-specific
38   speech models, and said plurality of interactive voice
39   response applications are all hosted in a single host.

1   65. (new) A method for allowing each of a plurality of
2 value-added service providers to set up an interactive voice
3 response application including an executable component for
4 execution by a voice portal hosting system commonly used by said
5 plurality of value-added service providers for selling products
6 and/or services, said voice response application for being used
7 by a plurality of users to order said products and services,
8 said method comprising the steps of:
9   storing a plurality of user-specific speech and language
10   models adapted to specific users for use by a common
11   speech recognition module;
12   identifying a user calling said system;
13   retrieving the user-specific speech and language model of
14   the identified user from said plurality of models;
15   independently uploading, to said system, said interactive
16   voice response applications which provide interactive
17   voice response functionality;
18   the identified user interacting with one of said
19   interactive voice response applications of a
20   corresponding one of said providers; and
21   said one or more of said interactive voice response
22   applications using said retrieved user-specific speech
23   and language model via said common speech recognition
24   module for executing on said hosting system for
25   recognizing speech of the identified user, wherein
26   said interactive voice response applications include
27   an executable component for execution by said hosting
28   system, and wherein

29   said retrieved user-specific speech and language model is

30   adapted during said interacting.

1   66 (new) The method of claim 65, wherein said adapted

2 retrieved user-specific speech and language model is made

3 available for use by all others of said interactive voice

4 response applications of the other providers.